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05/16/2011 Minutes

- VISION 2020 ENVIRONMENT TASK GROUP RESERVOIR COMMITTEE
- MAY 16, 2011 MEETING Town Hall Annex, First Floor
- In attendance: Lisa Fredman, Cathy Garnett, Martine Gougault, Jane Howard, Elizabeth Karpati, Ann LeRoy, Jim Marzilli, Stephan Miller, David White.
- Facilitator: David White, Minutes: Elizabeth Karpati
- Next meeting: TBA
- 1. The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as presented.
- 2. Habitat Garden:
 - • The habitat garden was installed Saturday, April 30. The following Monday three volunteers carried water from Mill Brook to water the new plantings. Now Mother Nature is doing the job. Jane has arranged for DPW to install a line from the water main on Lowell Street to the garden, with a spigot on each side of the outflow, for the cost of materials only (\$1500).
 - • The original grant for the garden was \$3000; we got \$2000 more from the Con Com's stewardship fund. Jane and Martine paid directly for items like the plants and topsoil and have been reimbursed from these funds. A little over \$4000 has been spent so far, so some fundraising will be needed to pay for the water line. The Res exhibit currently at the Robbins Library includes cards asking for donations.
 - • Installing the water line may require notification of "abutters," including all residents of Colonial Village. Maybe a volunteer could stuff their mailboxes instead of using postage.
 - • If the weather turns dry before the water line is installed, we will need watering volunteers and someone to coordinate them. Meanwhile we will mulch the garden on Saturday, May 28, 9 - 1. We have credit at Lalicata for 34 cubic yards of mulch.
 - • To be educational, the garden needs labeling for the different plants. It was suggested that this would make a good Scout project. Jane will talk to the Scout leader.
 - • We should draft a budget for expected additional expenses such as labeling materials and more mulch eventually. Cathy noted that we will also need some kind of fencing to protect the garden. Black plastic netting such as is used at Fresh Pond may be enough.
 - • Jim Marzilli offered to coordinate additional plant donations, making a list of plants desired and getting people to bring and plant their donations.
 - • Christine Aquilino, columnist for the Arlington Advocate, has interviewed Martine for a column on the garden and on invasives at the Res.
 - • Ideas for publicity about the garden and possible fundraising opportunities:
 - o Formal opening of the garden.
 - o More displays at Robbins Library (can have one every two years).
 - o Display cases in Town Hall lobby.
 - o Schools.
 - o EcoFest each year.
 - o Signs at places like Starbucks and Trader Joe; Hurd Field; Res beach.